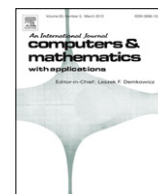


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## Further results for robust stability of homogeneous large-scale bilinear systems with time delays and uncertainties

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### ABSTRACT

In this paper, the problem of stability analysis for homogeneous large-scale time-delay bilinear systems subjected to uncertainties is considered. Two classes of uncertainty are treated: nonlinear uncertainties and parametric uncertainties. By making use of the Lyapunov stability approach associated with solution bounds of the Lyapunov equation, two delay-independent criteria are presented to guarantee the robust stability of the overall systems. The stability condition for the mentioned system with nonlinear uncertainties is sharper than that of a previous work. The main feature of the schemes presented is that they do not involve any Lyapunov equation which may be unsolvable although the Lyapunov stability theorem is used.

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### 1. Introduction

From the literature, it is well known that a bilinear structure can model nonlinear phenomena more accurately than a linear structure can [1–6]. Therefore, bilinear systems arise naturally as models for various dynamical processes, such as nuclear fission, chemical reactions, fluid flows, distillation columns, and wastewater treatment, especially in chemical engineering processes [4–6]. Furthermore, due to their theoretical and practical importance, a number of contributions have been devoted to the study of bilinear systems for several decades [7–25]. Basically, such research can be classified into two important topics: the stability analysis problem and stabilizing controller design. The former has been studied in [13,15,21,22] and the latter has been proposed in [4,7–10,12,13,16–20,23,25]. In addition, the stability analysis of large-scale bilinear systems has been studied in [13,14,19,24]. In practical considerations, time delays and uncertainties are the two important factors that can change the behavior of the characteristic equation and result in unsatisfactory performance or even unstable systems. Therefore, they should be integrated into system models. In the literature, studies of bilinear systems subjected to time delays and/or uncertainties have been of great interest. However, it seems that none of the existing works has discussed continuous large-scale bilinear systems with time delays and uncertainties except [11]. In [11], the robust stability of continuous large-scale bilinear systems subjected to uncertainties and time delays has been discussed. Several delay-independent criteria that ensure the robust stability of the overall systems were proposed. However, as mentioned in [11], those results obtained that involve matrix measures are somewhat conservative. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to improve the conservation of those criteria proposed in [11]. By using the Lyapunov equation approach associated with solution bounds of the Lyapunov equation, several robust stability conditions are established. It is shown that the condition for the system with nonlinear uncertainties mentioned is sharper than that of [11]. Furthermore, the criteria obtained for the interval system is also better than that proposed in [11] under some given assumptions. Finally, we give numerical examples to demonstrate the merits of the proposed results.

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The following symbol conventions are used in this paper. Symbols  $\mathbf{R}$ ,  $A^T$ ,  $\lambda_1(A)$ ,  $x^T(t)$ ,  $\|x(t)\|$ , and  $\|A\|$ , respectively, mean real number field, transpose of matrix  $A$ , the maximal eigenvalue of a symmetric matrix  $A$ , transpose of vector  $x(t)$ , norm of vector  $x(t)$  with  $\|x(t)\| = (x^T(t)x(t))^{1/2}$ , and induced norm of matrix  $A$  with  $\|A\| = \lambda_1(A^T A)^{1/2}$ . Furthermore,  $\mu(A)$  represents the matrix measure of  $A$  and is defined as  $\mu(A) = \lambda_1((A + A^T)/2)$ ,  $|A| = \{|a_{ij}|\}$  for matrix  $A = \{a_{ij}\}$ , and  $A \geq 0$  means that the symmetric matrix  $A$  is positive semi-definite.

## 2. Systems with nonlinear uncertainties

Consider the following homogeneous large-scale bilinear time-delay system  $\mathbf{S}$  subjected to nonlinear uncertainties which is described as an interconnection of  $N$  subsystems  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N$ , which are represented by

$$S_i : \dot{x}_i(t) = A_i x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij}(x_j(t - d_{ij}), t) + \sum_{j=1}^N A_{ij} x_j(t - d_{ij}) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik}(t) B_{ik} x_i(t) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (1)$$

where  $x_i(\cdot) \in \mathbf{R}^n$  and  $u_{ik}(\cdot) \in \mathbf{R}^m$  are the state vector and the input, respectively;  $A_i$ ,  $A_{ij}$ , and  $B_{ik}$  represent constant matrices with appropriate dimensions;  $d_{ij} > 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$  with  $d_{ii} = 0$  denote the communication delays in the interconnections; and  $f_{ij}(x_j(t - d_{ij}), t)$  represent nonlinear uncertainties possessing the following properties:

$$\|f_{ij}(x_j(t - d_{ij}), t)\| \leq \varepsilon_{ij} \|x_j(t - d_{ij})\|, \quad (2)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{ij} > 0$  are constants. The inputs  $\text{sat } u_{ik}(t)$  are saturating functions, defined as follows.

$$\text{sat } u_{ik}(t) = \begin{cases} u_{ik}(t), & \text{if } |u_{ik}(t)| \leq U_{ik} \\ U_{ik} \text{sgn}(u_{ik}(t)), & \text{if } |u_{ik}(t)| > U_{ik} > 0, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $U_{ik}$  are positive constants. From (3), we have

$$|\text{sat } u_{ik}(t)| \leq U_{ik}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m_i. \quad (4)$$

Then, by using the Lyapunov equation approach associated with linear algebraic techniques, we have the following result.

**Theorem 1.** For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , if there are positive constants  $q_i$ ,  $\alpha_{ji}$ ,  $\beta_{ij}$ , and  $\gamma_{ik}$  such that the following condition is satisfied

$$A_i^T + A_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \frac{q_j}{q_i \beta_{ji}} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 + \beta_{ij} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right] I + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_j}{q_i \alpha_{ji}} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{1}{\gamma_{ik}} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} < 0, \quad (5)$$

then the large-scale uncertain bilinear time-delay system (1) with constraints (3) is robustly stable.

**Proof.** For convenience, we use symbols  $x_i$ ,  $u_{ik}$ , and  $f_{ij}$  to represent  $x_i(t)$ ,  $u_{ik}(t)$ , and  $f_{ij}(x_j(t - d_{ij}), t)$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ , respectively, in the following and later descriptions. Condition (5) infers that  $A_i^T + A_i < 0$ , which means that matrix  $A_i$  is stable. Then, for a given positive definite matrix  $Q_i$ , the Lyapunov equation

$$A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i = -Q_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (6)$$

has a unique positive definite solution  $P_i$ . We now choose the positive definite matrix  $Q_i$  as

$$Q_i = q_i \left\{ \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \frac{q_j}{q_i \beta_{ji}} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 + \beta_{ij} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right] I + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_j}{q_i \alpha_{ji}} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{1}{\gamma_{ik}} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right\}, \quad (7)$$

where  $q_i$ ,  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $\beta_{ij}$ , and  $\gamma_{ik}$  are positive constants. Then we rewrite (6) as

$$A_i^T (q_i I - P_i) + (q_i I - P_i) A_i = q_i (A_i^T + A_i) + Q_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (8)$$

Substituting (7) into (8) gives

$$\begin{aligned} A_i^T (q_i I - P_i) + (q_i I - P_i) A_i &= q_i \left\{ A_i^T + A_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N \left( \frac{q_j}{q_i \beta_{ji}} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 + \beta_{ij} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right] I \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_j}{q_i \alpha_{ji}} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{1}{\gamma_{ik}} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

It is seen that, if condition (5) is satisfied, then the right-hand side of (9) is a negative definite matrix. Therefore, Eq. (9) is a Lyapunov equation and has a positive definite solution; that is,

$$q_i I - P_i > 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (10)$$

This means that the solution  $P_i$  of (6) has the upper bound

$$P_i < q_i I, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (11)$$

We choose the Lyapunov function  $V(x_i(t), t)$  for large-scale system (1) as

$$\begin{aligned} V(x_i(t), t) &= \sum_{i=1}^N V_i(x_i(t), t) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T P_i x_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \int_{t-d_{ij}}^t x_j^T(s) \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j(s) ds \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $P_i$  satisfies Lyapunov equation (6). Taking the derivative of  $V(x_i(t), t)$  along trajectories of (1) results in

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x_i(t), t) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \dot{x}_i^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \dot{x}_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T(t-d_{ij}) \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j(t-d_{ij}) \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \left[ A_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij} + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N A_{ij} x_j(t-d_{ij}) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik} x_i \right]^T P_i x_i \right. \\ &\quad \left. + x_i^T P_i \left[ A_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij} + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N A_{ij} x_j(t-d_{ij}) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik} x_i \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T(t-d_{ij}) \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j(t-d_{ij}) \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij}^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij} + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T(t-d_{ij}) A_{ij}^T P_i x_i \right. \\ &\quad \left. + x_i^T P_i \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j(t-d_{ij}) A_{ij} + x_i^T \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik}^T P_i + P_i \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik} \right] x_i \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N x_j^T(t-d_{ij}) \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j(t-d_{ij}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

We have

$$\sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij}^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij} \leq x_i^T \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{ij} P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\beta_{ij}} f_{ij}^T P_i f_{ij} \quad (14)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) A_{ij}^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N x_j (t - d_{ij}) A_{ij} \leq x_i^T \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik}^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} B_{ik} x_i &\leq x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} P_i x_i + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{1}{\gamma_{ik}} (\text{sat } u_{ik})^2 B_{ik}^T P_i B_{ik} x_i \\ &\leq x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} P_i x_i + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\gamma_{ik}} B_{ik}^T P_i B_{ik} x_i. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Substituting the above relations into (13) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x_i(t), t) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) x_i + x_i^T \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{ij} P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\beta_{ij}} f_{ij}^T P_i f_{ij} \right. \\ &\quad + x_i^T \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} P_i x_i \\ &\quad + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\gamma_{ik}} B_{ik}^T P_i B_{ik} x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N x_j^T \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} A_{ij}^T P_i A_{ij} + \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 I \right] x_j (t - d_{ij}) \right\} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) x_i + x_i^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{ij} + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right) P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \|f_{ij}^T\| \|f_{ij}\| \right. \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} q_i x_j^T A_{ij}^T A_{ij} x_j + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{q_i U_{ik}^2}{\gamma_{ik}} B_{ik}^T B_{ik} x_i \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 x_j^T x_j - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) x_j (t - d_{ij}) \right\} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T (A_i^T P_i + P_i A_i) x_i + x_i^T \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{ij} + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right) P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 x_j^T x_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_i}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T A_{ij}^T A_{ij} x_j + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{q_i U_{ik}^2}{\gamma_{ik}} B_{ik}^T B_{ik} x_i \right\} \\ &< \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^T \left\{ -Q_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_j}{\beta_{ji}} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I + \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \beta_{ij} + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \gamma_{ik} \right) q_i I \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji}} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{q_i U_{ik}^2}{\gamma_{ik}} B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right\} x_i = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where inequalities (2), (11), and the following relations are used.

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_i}{\beta_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}^2 x_j^T x_j = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{q_j}{\beta_{ji}} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 x_i^T x_i \quad (18)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_i}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T A_{ij}^T A_{ij} x_j = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji}} x_i^T A_{ji}^T A_{ji} x_i. \quad (19)$$

Therefore, it is seen that condition (5) can guarantee that  $\dot{V}(x_i(t), t)$  is negative and that the large-scale system  $\mathbf{S}$  is robustly stable. Thus, the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** Recently, the robust stability problem for system (1) was studied in [11]. Stability conditions were developed to ensure the robust stability of system (1). We rewrite those conditions as follows.

$$2\mu(A_i) + \varepsilon_{ii}^2 + 2N_i + m_i + 1 + \lambda_1 \left( \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} (A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right) < 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad (20)$$

where  $N_i$  denotes the number of  $A_{ij} \neq 0$  corresponding to the  $i$ th subsystem with  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . If we choose  $q_i = \frac{-1}{\mu(A_i)}$ ,  $q_j = \frac{-1}{\mu(A_j)}$ ,  $\alpha_{ij} = \beta_{ij} = \gamma_{ik} = 1$ , then condition (5) becomes

$$A_i^T + A_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I + (2N_i + m_i + 1)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} < 0. \quad (21)$$

Since condition (5) infers that

$$\lambda_1 \left[ A_i^T + A_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I + (2N_i + m_i + 1)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right] < 0, \quad (22)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda_1 \left[ A_i^T + A_i + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I + (2N_i + m_i + 1)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right] \\ &= \lambda_1 \left[ A_i^T + A_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} (A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right] + 2N_i + m_i + 1 + \varepsilon_{ii}^2 \\ &\leq \lambda_1 (A_i^T + A_i) + \lambda_1 \left[ \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} (A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right] + 2N_i + m_i + 1 + \varepsilon_{ii}^2 \\ &= 2\mu(A_i) + \varepsilon_{ii}^2 + 2N_i + m_i + 1 + \lambda_1 \left( \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(A_i)}{\mu(A_j)} (A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ji}^2 I) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 B_{ik}^T B_{ik} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

This means that condition (21) is sharper than condition (20). Furthermore, condition (21) is only a special case of condition (5). Therefore, one can conclude that the obtained condition (5) improves condition (20).

**Remark 2.** In fact, there are many free variables in condition (5). How to select them such that condition (5) has the best result is an open problem. Simple choices for these free variables are

$$q_i = q_j, \quad \alpha_{ij} = \|A_{ij}\|, \quad \beta_{ij} = \varepsilon_{ij}, \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_{ik} = U_{ik} \|B_{ik}\|.$$

Then we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.** The large-scale uncertain bilinear time-delay system (1) with constraints (3) is robustly stable if

$$A_i^T + A_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N (\varepsilon_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ij}) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \|A_{ij}\| + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik} \|B_{ik}\| \right] I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\|A_{ji}\|} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}}{\|B_{ik}\|} B_{ik}^T B_{ik} < 0, \quad (24)$$

where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . We find that this explicit condition can obtain better results than [11].

**Remark 3.** The result obtained can be applied to the stability analysis for large-scale uncertain time-delay systems. Let  $B_{ik} = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $k$ . Then (1) becomes the following large-scale uncertain time-delay system:

$$S_i : \dot{x}_i(t) = A_i x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N f_{ij}(x_j(t - d_{ij}), t) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N A_{ij} x_j(t - d_{ij}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (25)$$

Then, according to Corollary 1, we can obtain the following result without proof.

**Corollary 2.** The large-scale uncertain time-delay system described by (25) is robustly stable if, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , the following condition is met.

$$A_i^T + A_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N (\varepsilon_{ji} + \varepsilon_{ij}) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \|A_{ij}\| \right] I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\|A_{ji}\|} A_{ji}^T A_{ji} < 0. \quad (26)$$

### 3. Large-scale bilinear internal systems

Consider a homogeneous large-scale bilinear interval system  $\tilde{S}$ , which is described as an interconnection of  $N$  subsystems  $\tilde{S}_1, \tilde{S}_2, \dots, \tilde{S}_N$  represented by

$$\tilde{S}_i : \dot{x}_i(t) = \tilde{A}_i x_i(t) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \tilde{A}_{ij} x_j(t - d_{ij}) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik}(t) \tilde{B}_{ik} x_i(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad (27)$$

where  $x_i(\cdot) \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $d_{ij} \geq 0$ , and  $u_{ik}(\cdot) \in \mathbf{R}^m$  are the same as those in system (1), and  $\tilde{A}_i = [\tilde{a}_{ipq}]$ ,  $\tilde{A}_{ij} = [\tilde{a}_{ijpq}]$ , and  $\tilde{B}_{ik} = [\tilde{b}_{ikpq}]$  are interval matrices with appropriate dimensions, having the following properties:

$$\tilde{A}_i \in N[U_i, V_i] \quad \text{with } U_i = [u_{ipq}], \quad V_i = [v_{ipq}]. \quad (28)$$

$$\tilde{A}_{ij} \in N[U_{ij}, V_{ij}] \quad \text{with } U_{ij} = [u_{ijpq}], \quad V_{ij} = [v_{ijpq}] \quad (29)$$

$$\tilde{B}_{ik} \in N[E_{ik}, F_{ik}] \quad \text{with } E_{ik} = [e_{ikpq}], \quad F_{ik} = [f_{ikpq}]. \quad (30)$$

Functions  $N[U_i, V_i]$ ,  $N[U_{ij}, V_{ij}]$ , and  $N[E_{ik}, F_{ik}]$  present the set of all matrices  $\tilde{A}_i$ ,  $\tilde{A}_{ij}$ , and  $\tilde{B}_{ik}$  satisfying

$$u_{ipq} \leq \tilde{a}_{ipq} \leq v_{ipq}, \quad u_{ijpq} \leq \tilde{a}_{ijpq} \leq v_{ijpq}, \quad e_{ikpq} \leq \tilde{b}_{ikpq} \leq f_{ikpq}, \quad p, q = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (31)$$

Define

$$\hat{A}_i = [\hat{a}_{ipq}] \equiv \frac{U_i + V_i}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad L_i = [l_{ipq}] \equiv \frac{V_i - U_i}{2}, \quad p, q = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (32)$$

$$\hat{A}_{ij} = [\hat{a}_{ijpq}] \equiv \frac{U_{ij} + V_{ij}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad M_{ij} = [m_{ijpq}] \equiv \frac{V_{ij} - U_{ij}}{2}, \quad p, q = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (33)$$

$$\hat{B}_{ik} = [\hat{b}_{ikpq}] \equiv \frac{E_{ik} + F_{ik}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad N_{ik} = [n_{ikpq}] \equiv \frac{F_{ik} - E_{ik}}{2}, \quad p, q = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (34)$$

Then system (27) can be represented as

$$\tilde{S}_i : \dot{x}_i(t) = (\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i) x_i(t) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N (\hat{A}_{ij} + \Delta \hat{A}_{ij}) x_j(t - d_{ij}) + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik}(t) (\hat{B}_{ik} + \Delta \hat{B}_{ik}) x_i(t), \quad (35)$$

where  $\Delta \hat{A}_i$ ,  $\Delta \hat{A}_{ij}$ , and  $\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}$  denote parametric uncertainties with the following properties:

$$|\Delta \hat{A}_i| \leq L_i, \quad |\Delta \hat{A}_{ij}| < M_{ij}, \quad \text{and} \quad |\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}| < N_{ik}, \quad (36)$$

which means that  $|\Delta \hat{A}_i| = [|\Delta \hat{a}_{ipq}|]$ ,  $|\Delta \hat{A}_{ij}| = [|\Delta \hat{a}_{ijpq}|]$ ,  $|\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}| = [|\Delta \hat{b}_{ikpq}|]$  and  $|\Delta \hat{a}_{ipq}| \leq l_{ipq}$ ,  $|\Delta \hat{a}_{ijpq}| \leq m_{ijpq}$ ,  $|\Delta \hat{b}_{ikpq}| \leq n_{ikpq}$ , for  $p, q = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then, due to the well-known facts that  $\|A\| \leq \| |A| \|$  and  $\mu(A) \leq \mu(|A|)$ , we have

$$\|\Delta \hat{A}_{ij}\| \leq \| |\Delta \hat{A}_{ij}| \| \leq \| M_{ij} \|, \quad \|\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}\| \leq \| |\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}| \| \leq \| N_{ik} \|, \quad \text{and} \quad \mu(\Delta \hat{A}_i) \leq \mu(|\Delta \hat{A}_i|) \leq \mu(L_i). \quad (37)$$

Then in light of Theorem 1 and (36)–(37), we have the following result.

**Theorem 2.** If there exist positive constants  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $q_i$ , and  $\beta_{ik}$  such that the following condition is satisfied for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + 2\mu(L_i)I + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij}I + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji}q_i} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\|I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) \\ + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik}I + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} (\hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + 2\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| \|N_{ik}\|I + \|N_{ik}\|^2 I) < 0, \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

then the large-scale bilinear interval system (27) with constraints (3) is robustly stable.

**Proof.** According to (37), we have

$$\Delta \hat{A}_i^T + \Delta \hat{A}_i \leq 2\mu(\Delta \hat{A}_i)I \leq 2\mu(|\Delta \hat{A}_i|)I \leq 2\mu(L_i)I. \quad (39)$$

Then, from condition (38), it is obvious that matrix  $\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i < 0$ , which means that  $\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i$  is stable. We choose the Lyapunov function  $V(x_i(t), t)$  for the large-scale system (27) as

$$V(x_i(t), t) = \sum_{i=1}^N V_i(x_i(t), t) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \int_{t-d_{ij}}^t x_j^T(s) \frac{\tilde{A}_{ij}^T P_i \tilde{A}_{ij}}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j(s) ds \right\}, \quad (40)$$

where  $P_i$  satisfies the following Lyapunov equation:

$$(\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)^T P_i + P_i (\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i) = -Q_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (41)$$

Here, matrix  $Q_i$  is selected as

$$\begin{aligned} Q_i \equiv q_i \left[ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij}I + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji}q_i} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\|I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik}I + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} (\hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + 2\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| \|N_{ik}\|I + \|N_{ik}\|^2 I) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

where  $q_i$ ,  $\alpha_{ij}$ , and  $\beta_{ij}$  are arbitrary positive constants. Then, using similar methods as in the proof of Theorem 1, if condition (38) holds, then the solution  $P_i$  has the bound

$$P_i < qI, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (43)$$

Taking the derivative of  $V(x_i(t), t)$  along trajectories of (35) results in

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x_i(t), t) &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \dot{x}_i^T P_i x_i + x_i^T P_i \dot{x}_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T [(\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)^T P_i + P_i (\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)] x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) \tilde{A}_{ij}^T P_i x_i \right. \\ &\quad \left. + x_i^T P_i \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \tilde{A}_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) + x_i^T \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} \tilde{B}_{ik}^T P_i + P_i \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \text{sat } u_{ik} \tilde{B}_{ik} \right] x_i \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j - \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

By similar methods as in the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x_i(t), t) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ x_i^T [(\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)^T P_i + P_i (\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)] x_i + x_i^T \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \alpha_{ij} P_i x_i + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T \tilde{A}_{ij}^T P_i \tilde{A}_{ij} x_j \right. \\ &\quad \left. + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik} P_i x_i + x_i^T \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} \tilde{B}_{ik}^T P_i \tilde{B}_{ik} x_i \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ij}} x_j^T (t - d_{ij}) \hat{A}_{ij}^T P_i \hat{A}_{ij} x_j (t - d_{ij}) \Big\} \\
& \leq \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^T \left\{ [(\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)^T P_i + P_i (\hat{A}_i + \Delta \hat{A}_i)] + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \alpha_{ij} P_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\alpha_{ji}} \tilde{A}_{ji}^T P_j \tilde{A}_{ji} \right. \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik} P_i + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} \tilde{B}_{ik}^T P_i \tilde{B}_{ik} \right\} x_i \\
& < \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^T \left\{ -Q_i + q_i \left[ \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \alpha_{ij} + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji} q_i} \tilde{A}_{ji}^T \tilde{A}_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} \tilde{B}_{ik}^T \tilde{B}_{ik} \right] \right\} x_i. \quad (45)
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, we also have

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{A}_{ji}^T \tilde{A}_{ji} & = (\hat{A}_{ji}^T + \Delta \hat{A}_{ji}^T)(\hat{A}_{ji} + \Delta \hat{A}_{ji}) = \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + \hat{A}_{ji}^T \Delta \hat{A}_{ji} + \Delta \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + \Delta \hat{A}_{ji}^T \Delta \hat{A}_{ji} \\
& \leq \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + (2\|\hat{A}_{ji}^T\| \|\Delta \hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|\Delta \hat{A}_{ji}\|^2)I \leq \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + (2\|\hat{A}_{ji}^T\| \|M_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\|^2)I \quad (46)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{B}_{ik}^T \tilde{B}_{ik} & = (\hat{B}_{ik}^T + \Delta \hat{B}_{ik}^T)(\hat{B}_{ik} + \Delta \hat{B}_{ik}) \leq \hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + (2\|\hat{B}_{ik}^T\| \|\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}\| + \|\Delta \hat{B}_{ik}\|^2)I \\
& \leq \hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + (2\|\hat{B}_{ik}^T\| \|N_{ik}\| + \|N_{ik}\|^2)I. \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (46) and (47) into (45) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V}(x_i(t), t) & < \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^T \left\{ -Q_i + q_i \left[ \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \alpha_{ij} I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{q_j}{\alpha_{ji} q_i} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\| I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) \right] \right. \\
& \quad \left. + q_i \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \beta_{ik} I + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}^2}{\beta_{ik}} (\hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + 2\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| \|N_{ik}\| I + \|N_{ik}\|^2 I) \right] \right\} x_i \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^T \{-Q_i + Q_i\} x_i < 0, \quad (48)
\end{aligned}$$

where relation (37) is used. From (48), it is seen that if condition (38) holds then  $\dot{V}(x_i(t), t)$  is negative, which can ensure the robust stability of the large-scale bilinear interval system  $\tilde{S}$ . Thus, the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Remark 4.** Note that the Lyapunov equation (41) is unsolvable due to the parametric uncertainties  $\Delta \hat{A}_i$ . However, by using the upper bound of  $P_i$ , it is not necessary to solve any Lyapunov equation for the robust condition (38).

**Remark 5.** Define

$$\bar{A}_{ij} = [\bar{a}_{ijpq}] \quad \text{with } \bar{a}_{ijpq} \equiv \max(|u_{ijpq}|, |v_{ijpq}|) \quad (49)$$

$$\bar{B}_{ik} = [\bar{b}_{ikpq}] \quad \text{with } \bar{b}_{ikpq} \equiv \max(|e_{ikpq}|, |f_{ikpq}|). \quad (50)$$

Let  $\tilde{N}_i$  denote the number of  $\tilde{A}_{ij} \neq 0$  corresponding to the  $i$ th subsystem with  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . Then the following condition was proposed in [11] to guarantee the robust stability of system (35).

$$2[\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)] + \tilde{N}_i + m_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} \|\bar{A}_{ji}\|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 \|\bar{B}_{ik}\|^2 < 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (51)$$

If the constants  $q_i$ ,  $q_j$ ,  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $\alpha_{ji}$ , and  $\beta_{ij}$  are selected, respectively, as

$$q_i = \frac{1}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)}, \quad \alpha_{ij} = \alpha_{ji} = \beta_{ij} = 1, \quad (52)$$

then condition (38) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
& \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + 2\mu(L_i)I + (\tilde{N}_i + m_i)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\| I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) \\
& + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 (\hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + 2\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| \|N_{ik}\| I + \|N_{ik}\|^2 I) < 0. \quad (53)
\end{aligned}$$



Since

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 \hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} \\ \leq \lambda_i \left( \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} \hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 \hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} \right) I \\ \leq \lambda_i \left( \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i \right) I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} \|\hat{A}_{ji}\|^2 I + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 \|\hat{B}_{ik}\|^2 I, \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

condition (53) then implies that

$$2[\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)] + \tilde{N}_i + m_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_i) + \mu(L_i)}{\mu(\hat{A}_j) + \mu(L_j)} (\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\|)^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 (\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| + \|N_{ij}\|)^2 < 0. \quad (55)$$

From the following properties

$$\|\tilde{A}_{ji}\| \leq \|\tilde{A}_{ji}\| \leq \|\bar{A}_{ji}\|, \quad \|\tilde{A}_{ji}\| = \|\hat{A}_{ji} + \Delta \hat{A}_{ji}\| \leq \|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|\Delta \hat{A}_{ji}\| \leq \|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\| \quad (56)$$

$$\|\tilde{B}_{ij}\| \leq \|\tilde{B}_{ij}\| \leq \|\bar{B}_{ij}\|, \quad \|\tilde{B}_{ij}\| = \|\hat{B}_{ij} + \Delta \hat{B}_{ij}\| \leq \|\hat{B}_{ij}\| + \|N_{ij}\|, \quad (57)$$

it is seen that, if  $\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\| \leq \|\bar{A}_{ji}\|$  and  $\|\hat{B}_{ij}\| + \|N_{ij}\| \leq \|\bar{B}_{ij}\|$ , then our result (53) is sharper than (51). Otherwise, the tightness between the obtained result (53) and (51) cannot be compared. Perhaps they can supplement each other for such a case. We also give the following simple choices for these free variables in condition (38):

$$q_i = q_j, \quad \alpha_{ij} = \|A_{ij}\| + \|M_{ij}\|, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{ij} = U_{ik}(\|\hat{B}_{ij}\| + \|N_{ij}\|). \quad (58)$$

Theorem 1, then, becomes the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.** The large-scale bilinear interval system (27) with constraints (3) is robustly stable if, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , the following condition is satisfied.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + 2\mu(L_i)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N (\|\hat{A}_{ij}\| + \|M_{ij}\|)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\|} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\|I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) \\ + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik} (\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| + \|N_{ik}\|)I + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} \frac{U_{ik}}{\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| + \|N_{ik}\|} (\hat{B}_{ik}^T \hat{B}_{ik} + 2\|\hat{B}_{ik}\| \|N_{ik}\|I + \|N_{ik}\|^2 I) < 0. \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

**Remark 6.** Let  $\tilde{B}_{ik} = 0$  for all  $i$  and  $k$ . Then (27) becomes the following large-scale interval time-delay system:

$$\tilde{S}_i : \dot{x}_i(t) = \tilde{A}_i x_i(t) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \tilde{A}_{ij} x_j(t - d_{ij}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (60)$$

Then, according to Corollary 3, we can obtain the following result without proof.

**Corollary 4.** The large-scale interval time-delay system (60) is robustly stable if, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , the following condition is met.

$$\hat{A}_i^T + \hat{A}_i + 2\mu(L_i)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N (\|\hat{A}_{ij}\| + \|M_{ij}\|)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|M_{ji}\|} (\hat{A}_{ji}^T \hat{A}_{ji} + 2\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| \|M_{ji}\|I + \|M_{ji}\|^2 I) < 0. \quad (61)$$

#### 4. Illustrative examples

Examples are given below to show the merits of the results obtained.

**Example 1.** Consider the following large-scale bilinear uncertain time-delay system proposed in [11].

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -5 & 0.5 \\ 0 & -6 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t) + \sum_{j=1}^3 f_{1j}(x_j(t-d_{1j}), t) + \begin{bmatrix} -0.8 & 0.3 \\ 0 & 0.6 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t-d_{12}) \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.2 \\ 0.1 & 0.6 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t-d_{13}) + \text{sat } u_{11}(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & -0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 0.5 \\ 0.3 & -6 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t) + \sum_{j=1}^3 f_{2j}(x_j(t-d_{2j}), t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0 \\ 0.2 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t-d_{21}) \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.2 \\ 0.1 & -0.4 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t-d_{23}) + \text{sat } u_{21}(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_3(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -7 & 1 \\ 0 & -6 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t) + f_{33}(x_3(t), t) + \begin{bmatrix} -0.8 & 0.3 \\ 0 & -0.6 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t-d_{31}) \\ &\quad + f_{31}(x_1(t-d_{31}), t) + \text{sat } u_{31}(t) \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & -0.1 \\ 0 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t).\end{aligned}$$

Assume that  $U_{11} = 1.2$ ,  $U_{21} = 1.0$ , and  $U_{31} = 1.5$ . For this case, it is seen that  $m_1 = m_2 = m_3 = 1$ ,  $N_1 = 2$ ,  $N_2 = 2$ , and  $N_3 = 1$ . Now, by the stability condition (20), the uncertainty bounds that can guarantee the robust stability of this large-scale system have been estimated in [11] as

$$\varepsilon_{11}^2 + 0.8823\varepsilon_{21}^2 + 0.8529\varepsilon_{31}^2 < 2.6862 \quad (62)$$

$$1.1334\varepsilon_{12}^2 + \varepsilon_{22}^2 < 4.2147 \quad (63)$$

$$1.1724\varepsilon_{13}^2 + 1.0344\varepsilon_{23}^2 + \varepsilon_{33}^2 < 6.7055. \quad (64)$$

From Remark 1, the following uncertainty bounds are obtained by using (21).

$$\varepsilon_{11}^2 + 0.8823\varepsilon_{21}^2 + 0.8529\varepsilon_{31}^2 < 3.0402 \quad (65)$$

$$1.1334\varepsilon_{12}^2 + \varepsilon_{22}^2 < 4.7729 \quad (66)$$

$$1.1724\varepsilon_{13}^2 + 1.0344\varepsilon_{23}^2 + \varepsilon_{33}^2 < 6.7222. \quad (67)$$

Obviously, the presented results are better. Here, assuming that  $\varepsilon_{11} = \varepsilon_{12} = \varepsilon_{13} = \varepsilon_{21} = \varepsilon_{22} = \varepsilon_{23} = \varepsilon_{31} = \varepsilon_{33} = 1$ , inequality (62) cannot be satisfied. That is, the stability of this system cannot be ensured by [11]. However, inequalities (65)–(67) are met. This means that the proposed condition (21) can guarantee the stability of the system for this case. Furthermore, if we use condition (24), the results are

$$\begin{aligned}A_1^T + A_1 + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^3 (\varepsilon_{j1}^+ \varepsilon_{1j}) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \|A_{1j}\| + U_{11} \|B_{11}\| \right] I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{A_{j1}^T A_{j1}}{\|A_{j1}\|} + \frac{U_{11} B_{11}^T B_{11}}{\|B_{11}\|} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -0.5156 & 0.0157 \\ 0.0157 & -2.8112 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ A_2^T + A_2 + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^3 (\varepsilon_{j2}^+ \varepsilon_{2j}) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \|A_{2j}\| + U_{21} \|B_{21}\| \right] I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{A_{j2}^T A_{j2}}{\|A_{j2}\|} + \frac{U_{21} B_{21}^T B_{21}}{\|B_{21}\|} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -3.5378 & 0.5322 \\ 0.5322 & -3.9165 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ A_3^T + A_3 + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^3 (\varepsilon_{j3}^+ \varepsilon_{3j}) + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \|A_{3j}\| + U_{31} \|B_{31}\| \right] I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{A_{j3}^T A_{j3}}{\|A_{j3}\|} + \frac{U_{31} B_{31}^T B_{31}}{\|B_{31}\|} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -5.2977 & 1.1446 \\ 1.1446 & -3.2946 \end{bmatrix} < 0.\end{aligned}$$

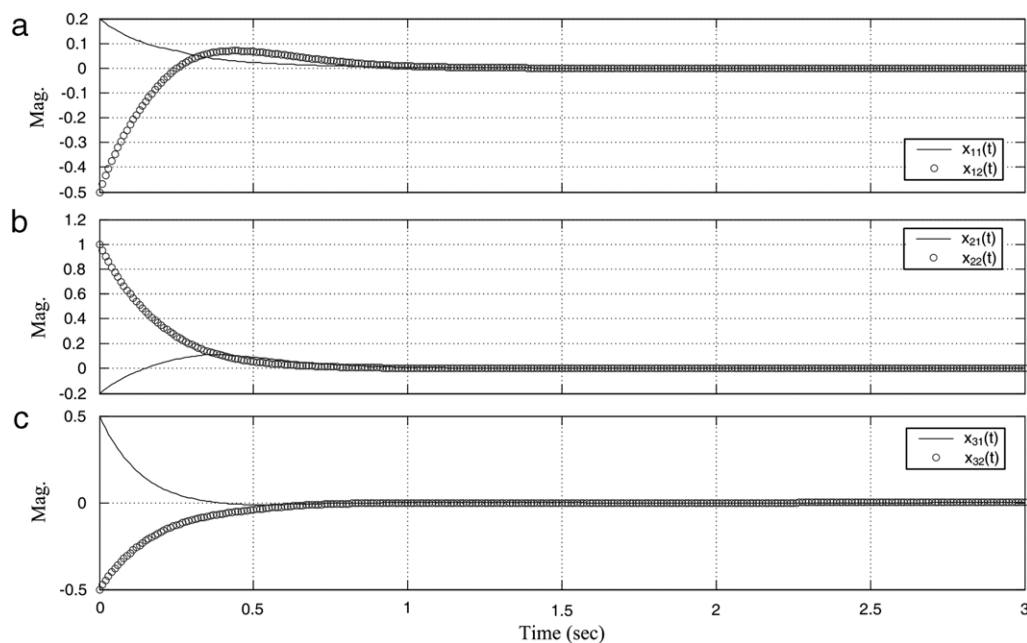


Fig. 1. Simulation results for example 1: (a) the trajectory of state  $x_1(t)$ , (b) the trajectory of state  $x_2(t)$ , (c) the trajectory of state  $x_3(t)$ .

The robust stability of this system can also be ensured. Therefore, the presented condition (5) is indeed better than (20).

Now, let the initial values of the states be  $x_1(t) = [0.2 \ -0.5]^T$ ,  $x_2(t) = [-0.2 \ 1]^T$ , and  $x_3(t) = [0.5 \ -0.5]^T$  for  $t < 0$ , with corresponding time-delay constants  $d_{12} = 0.2$ ,  $d_{13} = 0.3$ ,  $d_{21} = 0.2$ ,  $d_{23} = 0.3$ , and  $d_{31} = 0.4$ . The inputs and nonlinear uncertainties are respectively given as

$$\begin{aligned} u_{11}(t) &= 1.2 \sin 4t, & u_{21} &= \sin 2t, & u_{31} &= 1.5 \cos t, & f_{11}(x_1(t), t) &= \cos t \, x_1(t), \\ f_{12}(x_2(t - d_{12}), t) &= \sin t \, x_2(t - d_{12}), & f_{13}(x_3(t - d_{13}), t) &= -\cos 2t \, x_3(t - d_{13}), \\ f_{21}(x_1(t - d_{21}), t) &= \cos 2t \, x_1(t - d_{21}), & f_{22}(x_2(t), t) &= t + 1/|t| + 1 \, x_2(t), \\ f_{23}(x_3(t - d_{23}), t) &= \sin 4t \, x_3(t - d_{23}), & f_{33}(x_3(t), t) &= -\sin 3t \, x_3(t), \\ f_{31}(x_1(t - d_{31}), t) &= -\cos t \, x_1(t - d_{31}). \end{aligned}$$

Then, simulation results for the trajectories of all states are given in Fig. 1. It is observed that all states are regulated to zero asymptotically irrespective of those nonlinear uncertainties.

**Example 2.** Consider the following large-scale bilinear interval system that is modified slightly from that given in [11]:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -6.5 & -6 \\ 0 & -5.5 & -5 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t) + \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 & -0.1 \\ -0.1 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t - d_{12}) \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t - d_{13}) + \text{sat } u_{11}(t) \begin{bmatrix} -0.1 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -0.3 & -0.1 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -6.5 & -6 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t) + \begin{bmatrix} -0.5 & -0.2 \\ -0.3 & -0.1 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t - d_{23}) \\ &\quad + \text{sat } u_{21}(t) \begin{bmatrix} -0.2 & 0.1 \\ -0.2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.1 \\ 0.3 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t) + \text{sat } u_{22}(t) \begin{bmatrix} -0.1 & 0.1 \\ -0.2 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0.3 & 0.6 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t) \\ \dot{x}_3(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} -3.25 & -2.75 \\ -0.55 & -0.45 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t) + \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.6 \\ -0.1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 & 0.3 \\ -0.5 & -0.3 \end{bmatrix} x_1(t - d_{31}) \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} -0.4 & -0.2 \\ 0.1 & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -0.3 & -0.2 \\ 0.2 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix} x_2(t - d_{32}) \\ &\quad + \text{sat } u_{31}(t) \begin{bmatrix} -0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -0.2 & 0 \\ 0.3 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t) + \text{sat } u_{32}(t) \begin{bmatrix} -0.1 & 0.1 \\ 0 & -0.5 & -0.3 \end{bmatrix} x_3(t). \end{aligned}$$

It is seen that  $m_1 = 1$ ,  $m_2 = 2$ ,  $m_3 = 2$ ,  $N_1 = 2$ ,  $N_2 = 1$ , and  $N_3 = 2$ . For this case, let  $U_{11} = 2.5$ ,  $U_{21} = 1.5$ ,  $U_{22} = 1.5$ ,  $U_{31} = 0.6$ , and  $U_{32} = 0.6$ . Then, according to the stability condition (51), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2[\mu(\hat{A}_1) + \mu(L_1)] + \tilde{N}_1 + m_1 + \left( \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_1) + \mu(L_1)}{\mu(\hat{A}_3) + \mu(L_3)} \|\bar{A}_{31}\|^2 + \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_1) + \mu(L_1)}{\mu(\hat{A}_2) + \mu(L_2)} \|\bar{A}_{21}\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_1 \right) &= -3.0088 \\ 2[\mu(\hat{A}_2) + \mu(L_2)] + \tilde{N}_2 + m_2 + \left( \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_2) + \mu(L_2)}{\mu(\hat{A}_1) + \mu(L_1)} \|\bar{A}_{12}\|^2 + \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_2) + \mu(L_2)}{\mu(\hat{A}_3) + \mu(L_3)} \|\bar{A}_{32}\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_2 \right) &= -4.3286 \\ 2[\mu(\hat{A}_3) + \mu(L_3)] + \tilde{N}_3 + m_3 + \left( \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_3) + \mu(L_3)}{\mu(\hat{A}_1) + \mu(L_1)} \|\bar{A}_{13}\|^2 + \frac{\mu(\hat{A}_3) + \mu(L_3)}{\mu(\hat{A}_2) + \mu(L_2)} \|\bar{A}_{23}\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_3 \right) &= 0.1647, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{\beta}_i = \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} U_{ik}^2 \|B_{ik}\|^2$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

Therefore, the stability of this large-scale bilinear interval system cannot be guaranteed by the condition presented in [11]. Now, we check the stability via condition (59), and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\hat{A}_1^T + \hat{A}_1 + 2\mu(L_1)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 (\|\hat{A}_{1j}\| + \|M_{1j}\|)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{1}{\|\hat{A}_{j1}\| + \|M_{j1}\|} (\hat{A}_{j1}^T \hat{A}_{j1} + 2\|\hat{A}_{j1}\| \|M_{j1}\|I + \|M_{j1}\|^2 I) \\ &\quad + U_{11}(\|\hat{B}_{11}\| + \|N_{11}\|)I + \frac{U_{11}}{\|\hat{B}_{11}\| + \|N_{11}\|} (\hat{B}_{11}^T \hat{B}_{11} + 2\|\hat{B}_{11}\| \|N_{11}\|I + \|N_{11}\|^2 I) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -4.6805 & -0.1471 \\ -0.1471 & -2.9534 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ &\hat{A}_2^T + \hat{A}_2 + 2\mu(L_2)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 (\|\hat{A}_{2j}\| + \|M_{2j}\|)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{1}{\|\hat{A}_{j2}\| + \|M_{j2}\|} (\hat{A}_{j2}^T \hat{A}_{j2} + 2\|\hat{A}_{j2}\| \|M_{j2}\|I + \|M_{j2}\|^2 I) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^2 U_{2k}(\|\hat{B}_{2k}\| + \|N_{2k}\|)I + \sum_{k=1}^2 \frac{U_{2k}}{\|\hat{B}_{2k}\| + \|N_{2k}\|} (\hat{B}_{2k}^T \hat{B}_{2k} + 2\|\hat{B}_{2k}\| \|N_{2k}\|I + \|N_{2k}\|^2 I) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -3.3715 & -0.2126 \\ -0.2126 & -4.2660 \end{bmatrix} < 0 \\ &\hat{A}_3^T + \hat{A}_3 + 2\mu(L_3)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 (\|\hat{A}_{3j}\| + \|M_{3j}\|)I + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^3 \frac{1}{\|\hat{A}_{j3}\| + \|M_{j3}\|} (\hat{A}_{j3}^T \hat{A}_{j3} + 2\|\hat{A}_{j3}\| \|M_{j3}\|I + \|M_{j3}\|^2 I) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^2 U_{3k}(\|\hat{B}_{3k}\| + \|N_{3k}\|)I + \sum_{k=1}^2 \frac{U_{3k}}{\|\hat{B}_{3k}\| + \|N_{3k}\|} (\hat{B}_{3k}^T \hat{B}_{3k} + 2\|\hat{B}_{3k}\| \|N_{3k}\|I + \|N_{3k}\|^2 I) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -0.3446 & 0.4838 \\ 0.4838 & -4.8182 \end{bmatrix} < 0. \end{aligned}$$

This system then is indeed robustly stable. In this case, although  $\|\hat{A}_{ji}\| + \|N_{ji}\| > \|\bar{A}_{ji}\|$  and  $\|\hat{B}_{ij}\| + \|N_{ij}\| > \|\bar{B}_{ij}\|$  for all  $i, j$ , condition (59) is satisfied for all  $i$ . Therefore, it is better than condition (51) for this case.

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, the robust stability test problem for homogeneous bilinear time-delay systems with constrained inputs and uncertainties has been addressed. Both nonlinear and parametric uncertainties have been treated. By using the Lyapunov equation approach associated with linear algebraic techniques and simple upper bounds of the solution of the Lyapunov equation, several delay-independent conditions that guarantee the robust stability of overall systems have been established. It is shown that these results can be applied to solve the stability analysis for large-scale uncertain time-delay systems. Finally, illustrative examples have been given to demonstrate the merits of the present schemes. We believe that this work is helpful for controller design of large-scale bilinear uncertain time-delay systems.

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